

NOTICE.
A. S. WATSON & CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and His Royal Highness the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, WHOLESALER AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS, PERFUMES, PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS, DEPOSITORS OF SUNDRY MEDICINES, AND ERATED WATER MAKERS. SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED. PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson & Co., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS. Communications on editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager." Letters should be addressed to the Editor, and not to individuals by name.

Advertisements and Subscriptions will be continued until ordered for a fixed period, unless otherwise stated. Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

At No. 7, Police Station, on the 10th inst., the wife of Inspector CORCORAN, of a daughter.

The Daily Press.
HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 11th, 1934.

The mail has brought out further information as to the French view of the Li Fung-chang agreement relative to the dates for the evacuation of Lungang and other places in Tientsin.

The Chinese published a document purporting to be the note given by Captain FOURNIER to the Viceroy, and which had extensive erasures, these bearing the initials of the French negotiator.

As soon as the document was published it was semi-officially stated on behalf of the French authorities that the erasures and initialing were forgeries, and the French Government have adopted that charge in the most distinct manner possible.

On the 22nd July the correspondent of the Times telegraphed from Tientsin as follows:—"The agreement referred to by Mr. FERRY in the French Chamber on May 20, as having been made between Captain FOURNIER and Li HUNG-CHANG, specifying dates for the withdrawal of the Chinese troops from Tientsin, was a misnomer. I have seen the original document, which is in the possession of Li HUNG-CHANG. At the head of it, the communication containing the whole of the details respecting the withdrawal of the Chinese troops was rejected in toto by Li HUNG-CHANG, and the clauses of the communication were thereupon cancelled. Captain FOURNIER with his own hand attested the rejection of those paragraphs by attaching his initials. Li HUNG-CHANG took his stand on the text of the Convention, promising to arrange for the evacuation to take place within a reasonable time." This is a very fair statement in brief of the case set up by the Chinese.

It must not be forgotten that the erasures in the document were referred to in an Imperial decree, so that it will be difficult for the Government of China to withdraw from the position it has taken up.

The publication of the Times telegram, however, at once called forth a note from the French Government. A telegram from Paris dated 31st July states:—"A semi-official note, published here to-day declares that the information telegraphed from Tientsin to a London morning paper on the 23rd instant, concerning the arrangement in regard to the evacuation of Tientsin by the Chinese troops, is entirely incorrect. The note proceeds as follows:—"

Commander FOURNIER and Li HUNG-CHANG agreed verbally upon the time necessary to effect the immediate withdrawal of the Chinese troops provided for by Article 2 of the Treaty of Tientsin. In order to place this understanding on record Commander FOURNIER dictated to Li HUNG-CHANG a note specifying the dates on which the French troops should replace the Chinese garrisons, and copies of this note were, with the Viceroy's formal assent, despatched to M. JAMES FERRY and General MILLER. It is untrue, therefore, that Commander FOURNIER approved by his initials the erasures seen by the Tientsin correspondent of the journal in question, who has evidently been imposed upon." It is evident there has been foul play somewhere. The Chinese say that Captain FOURNIER cancelled those clauses of the note referring to the dates of the evacuation; the French say that not only did Li accept the note unreservedly but that he formally assented to copies of it being sent to Mr. FERRY and General MILLER. The two statements are totally irreconcilable. Either the Chinese have committed forgery or the French have fraudulently put forth as valid a document which had been cancelled. We have already, in a previous article, examined the Chinese case and indicated what appear to be very weak points in it. When the text of the Imperial decree above referred to and Li HUNG-CHANG's account of the conversation with respect to the agreement reach Paris, it will be incumbent on the French Government to publish a detailed statement by Captain FOURNIER. Until that is received the evidence cannot be regarded as complete. It must be noted, however, that the French Government have all along acted on the assumption that the agreement was actually in existence. Mr. FERRY announced in the Chamber the date when the evacuation of Lungang was to take place, and he was not corrected by the Chinese Minister. Again, after the collision at Lungang Mr. FERRY addressed the following despatch to Li HUNG-CHANG, dated 27th June:—"With the view of assuring the peace and welfare of our two countries we concluded a solemn Treaty. Before the ink was dry the Treaty was violated. A detachment of 800

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